

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032946

65

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EGEN, OVIP - ROBINSON (CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S TRIP

REF; (A) STATE 30951; (B) LAGOS 1654; (C) KINSHASHA 1178;
(D) KINSHASHA 1205

1. APPRECIATE SCHEDULING PROBLEM CITED LAGOS REF B. HAVE
RESTUDIED FLIGHT SCHEDULES SEARCHING FOR FEASIBLE MEANS
OF REACHING LAGOS LATE SUNDAY OR EARLY MONDAY OR,
ALTERNATIVELY, DEPARTING LAGOS LATER WEDNESDAY OR
THURSDAY MORNING. INFORMATION HERE CONFIRMS REF D, THAT
IS, NO COMMERCIAL MEANS OF REACHING LAGOS FROM KINSHASHA
ON SUNDAY OR EARLY MONDAY. OPTION OF EXTENDING LAGOS VISIT
THROUGH WEDNESDAY AND DEPARTING EARLY THURSDAY WOULD
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PAGE 02 STATE 032946

REQUIRE FLYING TO CAIRO VIA BEIRUT WITH TWO AND ONE-HALF

HOURLY LAYOVER AT BEIRUT, WHICH WOULD ENTAIL SECURITY RISKS
AND POSSIBILITY OF FLIGHT CANCELLATION.

2. UNDER SECRETARY HAS TWO CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCES
SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 19 WHICH PRECLUDE EARLIER DEPARTURE
THAN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, ARRIVING KINSHASHA 2/20 AT
1855 VIA PA 184, AS NOW PLANNED PER REFTEL C.

3. ONLY MEANS OF ACCOMMODATING LAGOS REQUIREMENT OF
MONDAY MORNING APPOINTMENT APPEARS TO BE USE OF DAO

AIRCRAFT FROM KINSHASHA TO LAGOS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22.
EMBASSY KINSHASHA REQUESTED TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY WHETHER
THIS IS FEASIBLE ESTIMATED FLIGHT TIME, AND FUEL AND CREW
COSTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDING ACTION.

4. FOR CAIRO: ASSUME THERE IS NO NEED FOR UNDER SECRETARY
ROBINSON TO BE IN CAIRO ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, IN VIEW OF
GOE MINISTERS' TRAVEL, IF DELAY IN ARRIVAL TO THURSDAY
EVENING CAN RESOLVE LAGOS SCHEDULE PROBLEM. KISSINGER

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